

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claims 17-22 and 36 and leaves claims 27-35 and 37-40 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 27-35 and 37-40.

Claims 17-22 and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeGroot (U.S. Patent No. 4,766,564) in view of Chevillat (U.S. Patent No. 4,615,004). As indicated above, claims 17-22 and 36 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 17-22 and 36 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 17-22 and 36 are taught or suggested by DeGroot or Chevillat. The cancellation of claims 17-22 and 36 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the subject matter as set forth in claims 17-22 and 36 in a continuing application.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 7 of the Office Action that claims 27-35 and 37-40 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 27-35 and 37-40 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 27-35 and 37-40 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.28166CX2).

Respectfully submitted,

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